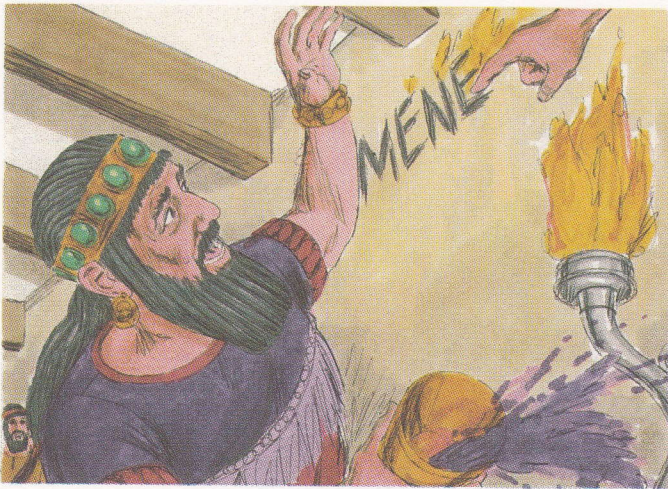


# Daniel in the Lions' Den



**1** On the very night that he had seen the fingers of a human hand writing on the wall of the banquet hall, Belshazzar was killed. The new ruler of Babylon was Darius the Mede.



**2** Darius made Daniel one of the three officials who supervised the governors of the land. Daniel was such a good supervisor that Darius was thinking about putting him over the whole kingdom.



**3** But the other officials were jealous. They tried to find some fault with Daniel — but they couldn't, because he was an honest man and a good worker. They decided to get him into trouble.



**4** These jealous officials went to the king and said, "We think you should order that no one can pray to any god or any man except the king for thirty days. Anyone who disobeys should be killed."

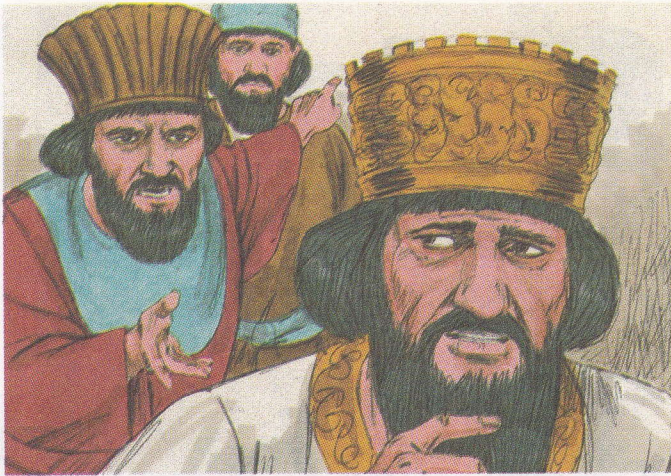


**5** When Daniel learned that Darius had signed this order, he went home. He knelt at a window that faced Jerusalem. Then, just as he had always done three times a day, he prayed to the Lord.



**6** Daniel's enemies saw him praying at his window. They went straight to the king and said, "Daniel does not respect or obey the king's orders. He still prays three times every day."

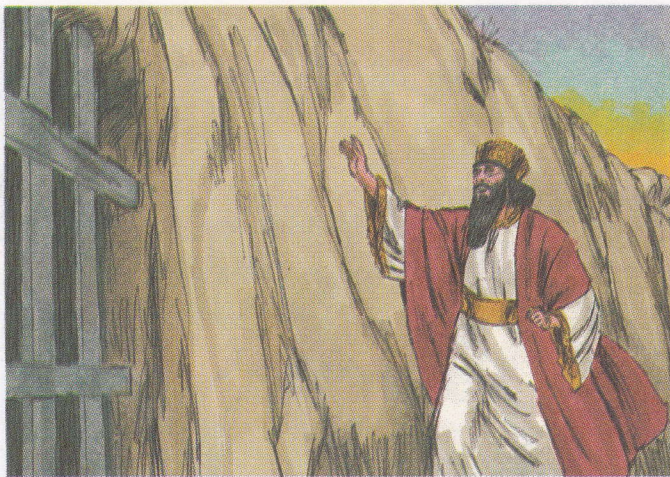




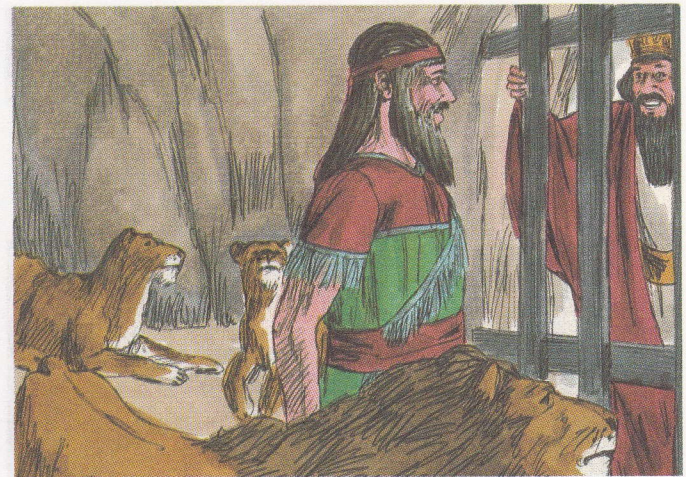
**7** They insisted that Daniel be punished. The king was quite upset and tried to think of a way to save Daniel. "The king's orders cannot be changed," they reminded him.



**8** So Darius ordered Daniel thrown into the lions' den. But he said to Daniel, "I hope your God rescues you." Then they put a stone over the opening and sealed it so no one could help Daniel.



**9** That evening the king was so worried about Daniel that he wanted no food or entertainment. He couldn't sleep. At dawn he ran to the den and cried, "Daniel, was your God able to save you?"



**10** And Daniel answered! He said, "God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions! They have not hurt me! God saved me because he knows that I have done the king no wrong."



**11** The king had Daniel pulled out of the lions' den. Then the jealous officials who had accused Daniel were thrown in. The lions immediately leaped on them and killed them.



**12** Afterwards, Darius wrote a letter to all his subjects: "Everyone must show respect to the God of Daniel. His God is a god who rescues and saves. He has saved Daniel from the lions."